

REMARKS

I. Status

The Office Action indicates claims 1-28 to be pending in this Application. With this response, claims 1-12 are amended. No new matter has been added.

Claims 1-12, 15-22, 25, and 26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Brachman (U.S. Patent No. 6,704,576) in view of Zhang (U.S. Patent No. 6,741,575).

Claims 13 and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Brachman and Zhang in view of Stanforth (U.S. Pub. No. 2002/0058502).

Claims 23, 24, 27, and 28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Brachman and Zhang in view of Khan (U.S. Pub. No. 2002/0143951).

Claims 1-12 are independent.

II. Amendment of Independent Claims 1-12

With this response, claims 1-12 are amended. No new matter has been added.

Applicants respectfully submit that the cited references, taken individually or in combination, fail, for example, to disclose, teach, or suggest:

“... wherein said deciding takes into account relationship information received from one or more members of the reception group, wherein the relationship information received from each of said one or more members comprises indication of a plurality of cells with which that member is capable of communicating ...”

as set forth in each of claims 1, 2, 5-8, 11, and 12 as amended herewith (emphasis added).

As another example, Applicants respectfully submit that the cited references, taken individually or in combination, fail to disclose, teach, or suggest:

“... wherein the available cellular distributions comprise one or more different possibilities for at least one member of the reception group establishing relationship with a plurality of first cells and severing relationship with a plurality of second cells ...”

as set forth in each of claims 3, 4, 9, and 10 as amended herewith (emphasis added).

In view of at least the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1-12 at least with the amendments herewith, as well as those claims that depend therefrom, are in condition for allowance.

III. Dependent Claims

Applicants do not believe it is necessary at this time to further address the rejections of the dependent claims as Applicants believe that the foregoing places the independent claims in condition for allowance. Applicants, however, reserve the right to further address those rejections in the future should such a response be deemed necessary and appropriate

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CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully submit that this Application is in condition for allowance for which action is earnestly solicited.

If a telephone conference would facilitate prosecution of this Application in any way, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the number provided.

AUTHORIZATION

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees which may be required for this response, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-4500, Order No. 4208-4057.


Furthermore, in the event that an extension of time is required, the Commissioner is requested to grant a petition for that extension of time which is required to make this response timely and is hereby authorized to charge any fee for such an extension of time or credit any overpayment for an extension of time to the above-noted Deposit Account and Order No.

Respectfully submitted,

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